U.S.F.W.S. Fishery Leaflet #336 #336

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

July - September 1963

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Cold-storage holdings of edible fishery products June 1, '63 = 153.0 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 119.0 mil. lbs.; June 1, '61 = 139.0 mil. lbs. Almost all major species were in higher supply on June 1, '63 than last year, except some fresh-water species, whiting, and fillets of flounder, haddock, and pollock.

Imports during Jan.-May '63 continued lower than same period '62 for most species. However, there was a very large increase in receipts of frozen shrimp and canned sardines, not-in-oil. Imports during this period were also higher than last year for ocean perch fillets, halibut, fresh-water fish, canned crab meat, canned oysters, and fish meal.

Exports Jan.-April '63 were higher than same period last year for frozen and canned salmon, canned sardines, frozen and canned shrimp, canned squid, and inedible fish oils. Lower exports during same period for canned mackerel and shucked oysters.

All indications point to a better sprimp production year in '63 than last year. Canned inventories high. Buyers' market.

Wholesale price index for edible fishery products in May '63 at 115.9% of the 1957-59 average was 2.9% lower than May '62. The canned fishery products index at 104.9% was 14.1% lower than same month last year.

World fish meal production of 714,400 tons during the first 4 months of '63 was 15.5% greater than in the same period last year. Production in early '63 was boosted by record landings of anchoveta in Peru and record landings of herring in Iceland. The increase was offset by a considerable decline in production in South Africa, Canada, Norway, and Angola.

Two special industry-Government cooperative fishery promotions are planned for August. Canned tuna will be featured nationally on the Plentiful Foods List of the Department of Agriculture and will also be included in the Food Stamp Program. In addition, the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, has given full support to this promotion and will prepare special marketing bulletins, television slides, recipes, and press releases for national distribution. Strong industry promotion is already underway and most of the country's food trade associations will be featuring canned tuna. Also during August "Scallop Festival Days" will be listed nationally as a merchandising opportunity on the Plentiful Foods Program.

Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS -----

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Fish stick prod. during Jan.-March '63 = 23.7 mil. lbs., about 15% higher than year earlier. Fish portion prod. same period 24.2 mil. lbs., up 31%. Combined cold storage holdings June 1, '63 = 12.3 mil. lbs., June 1, '62 = 7.8 mil. lbs. Prices steady this quarter.

FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS --

Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings of flounder in Mass. thru May '63 = 34.7 mil. lbs.; Jan.-May '62 = 27.9 mil. lbs. Seasonal increase in landings this quarter. Fillet holdings June 1, '63 = 2.6 mil. lbs., about 14% below same date '62. Imports of fillets first five months '63 = 5.0 mil. lbs.; same period '62 = 6.4 mil. lbs.

COD FILLETS ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Holdings cod fillets June 1, '63 = 7.0 mil. lbs., 14% higher than year earlier. Imports cod fillets only slightly less than last year during first five months. Prices steady this quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings of haddock for five months '63 = 51.8 mil. lbs., about same as year earlier. Holdings June 1, '63 = 6.1 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 7.7 mil. lbs. Imports Jan.-May '63 = 11.0 mil. lbs., 14% below '62. Slight inventory build-up this quarter.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS ------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Mass. thru May '63 = 37.5 mil. lbs. about 14 mil. lbs. less than in comparable period '62. Holdings June 1, '63 = 7.1 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 6.2 mil. lbs. Imports five months '63 = 6.0 mil. lbs.; thru May '62 = 4.9 mil. lbs. Good landings expected this quarter with some inventory build-up.

HALIBUT----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

U. S. landings thru May '63 = 11.2 mil. lbs. compared with 11.6 mil. lbs. year earlier. For the first time, Canadian catch at 15.6 mil. lbs. same period far ahead of U. S. Holdings June 1, '63 = 18.9 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 11.2 mil. lbs. Prices which had dropped because of large carry-over in inventories, should remain at lower levels during this quarter.

MACKEREL, CANNED --------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Landings Pacific and Jack mackerel thru June 30, '63 = 28,800 tons; comparable period '62 = 27,200 tons; thru June 30, '61 = 21,600 tons. Some canned mackerel sales being made for export trade because of exhausted supplies of California sardines. Exports canned mackerel thru April '63 = 1.5 mil. lbs.; year earlier 2.0 mil. lbs.

SALMON, CANNED----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Light
Demand - Moderate

Pack thru June 30, '63 about 54% below that in comparable '62 period. Imports canned salmon Jan.-May '63 = 316,000 lbs.; Jan.-May '62 = 5.1 mil. lbs. Exports Jan.-April '63 = 3.8 mil. lbs.; Jan.-April '62 = 3.6 mil. lbs. Prices have dropped and should remain at the reduced level during this quarter.

SARDINES, CALIFORNIA-------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Exhausted
Demand - Good

Pack for '62-'63 season was third lowest on record and is exhausted until new season begins in September. Imports sardines canned not-in-oil thru May '63 = 13.7 mil. lbs. compared with 5.0 mil. lbs. same period year earlier. Exports Jan.-April '63 = 2.0 mil. lbs.; Jan.-April '62 = 1.8 mil. lbs.

SARDINES, MAINE ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Pack thru June 22, 1963 = 132,000 std. cases. Season opened April 15 with very large carryover stocks. Prices during last week June at low level of year thus far but are expected to remain steady.

TUNA ----------

Market - Improving
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Moderate

California pack Jan.-June '63 = 3.9 mil. std. cases, about 29% below same period '62. However, sales have gained momentum and demand should continue to improve this quarter. Strong promotional campaign on television, radio, and newspapers. Prices should remain steady.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Heavy production expected this quarter on Gulf & Atlantic coasts following an unusually light second quarter. Dungeness crab supply short on Pacific Coast. Imports canned crab meat thru May '63 = 1.9 mil. lbs.; Jan.-May '62 = 1.3 mil. lbs. Prices steady.

SCALLOPS, SEA ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production thru May '63 = 6.3 mil. lbs. about 2 mil. lbs. below same period '62. Holdings June 1, '63 = 1.7 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 1.6 mil. lbs. Imports thru May '63 = 4.3 mil. lbs., about same as Jan.-May '62. Prices firm this quarter.

SHRIMP ----------

Market - Strong
Supplies - Good
Demand - Good

Production of small brown shrimp for canning this season far ahead of '62. Large inventories of '62 canned shrimp. Prices expected to weaken this quarter. Holdings frozen shrimp June 1, '63 = 36.2 mil. lbs.; June 1, '62 = 18.9 mil. lbs. Imports first five months '63 = 61.0 mil. lbs., up 12% from year earlier.

Industrial Products

FISH MEAL----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Good
Demand - Moderate

Production thru May '63 = 55,700 tons; Jan.-May '62 = 60,700 tons. Seasonal peak during summer months. Imports first five months '63 = 163,500 tons, compared with 114,400 tons in same period '62. Prices mostly steady with possible slight weakening this quarter.

FISH OIL ----------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Good
Demand - Good

Production thru May '63 = 41.2 mil. lbs.; Jan.-May '62 = 38.7 mil. lbs. Exports thru April '63 = 75.4 mil. lbs. about 46% higher than same period '62. Norway and United Kingdom heaviest importers from U. S. during period. Continued firm market this quarter.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production and employment continued to expand in May while construction activity also increased. Retail sales remained unchanged from the level of the preceding 3 months. The unemployment rate rose as teenagers entered the labor force in unusually large numbers.

Industrial production rose 1% further in May '63 to 124% of the '57-'59 average and was 4% above the levels at the beginning of the year.

Employment increased substantially in durable goods manufacturing. The average workweek increased slightly in both durable and nondurable goods manufacturing. Reflecting the large number of teenagers in the labor force, the unemployment rate increased from 5.7% in April to 5.9% in May.

Retail sales in May '63 were about 4% above May '62.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Meat - Beef production in late summer and early fall is expected to dip seasonally from late spring and early summer peaks. Prices of cattle will probably recover substantially during latter part of '63. Hog slaughter will continue above year earlier levels and prices should be maintained near or slightly above current levels into September. Supply of slaughter lambs most likely will continue below year-earlier levels through the last half of '63, and prices are expected to hold about equal with last year's level.

Poultry - Lower prices this summer than in '62 because of large production and greater broiler slaughter. Egg production last half '63 might be somewhat larger than same period '62. Total '63 production however, is expected to be about equal to '62.

Dairy Products - Milk production during first 5 months '63 was about 1% below a year earlier, but still 1% above the five-year average.

Fats and Oils - Total food fats supplies through Sept. '63 will be larger than during comparable period in '62. Exports are expected to remain high. Retail prices of most food fats and oils should remain stable through the summer, possibly averaging slightly below last year. Per capita consumption of margarine and lard probably will increase over '62, but use of shortening and other edible vegetable oils will remain near '62 consumption levels or possibly register slight decline.

Vegetables - Supplies of canned vegetables remain larger than last year. Cold-storage stocks of frozen vegetables on June 1, '63 totaled 946 million pounds compared with 873 million pounds on June 1, '62.

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